Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently amended) A method of treating a traumatic central nervous system injury ~~in a patient~~, said method comprising ~~administering to said patient in need thereof a pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of allopregnanolone~~:

a. identifying a patient with a traumatic central nervous system injury; and

b. administering to said patient a pharmaceutical composition comprising allopregnanolone in a therapeutically effective amount to treat said traumatic central nervous system injury.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said injury is a traumatic brain injury.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein said traumatic brain injury results from a blunt force contusion.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said method reduces edema in the patient following said traumatic CNS injury.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said method reduces the inflammatory response in the patient following said traumatic CNS injury.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said method reduces neuronal cell death in the patient following said traumatic CNS injury.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said allopregnanolone is administered in at least one dosage of about 1μg/kg to about 50 mg/kg of body weight.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein said allopregnanolone is administered in at least one dosage of about 4 mg/kg of body weight.

9. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein at least one dosage of said allopregnanolone is administered about 0.5 to about 100 hours following the traumatic CNS injury.

10. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the first dose of the allopregnanolone is administered about 1 hour following the traumatic CNS injury, and a subsequent allopregnanolone dose is administered about 6 hours following the injury.

11. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the first dose of the allopregnanolone is administered about 1 hour following the traumatic brain injury, a second allopregnanolone dosage is administered about 6 hours following the injury, and subsequent allopregnanolone dosages are administered in 24 hour intervals.

12. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said allopregnanolone is administered by intraperitoneal, subcutaneous, intravenous or intracerebroventricular administration or any combination thereof.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said pharmaceutical composition comprises a carrier comprising cyclodextrin.

15. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said composition further comprises at least one other neurotrophic agent.

16. (Currently Amended) A method of decreasing neurodegeneration ~~on a population of cells in a patient~~ following a traumatic injury to the central nervous system, said method comprising ~~administering to the patient in need thereof a pharmaceutical composition comprising~~

~~a therapeutically effective dose of allopregnanolone, wherein said dose produces a neuroprotective effect in the patient~~:

a. identifying a patient with a traumatic central nervous system injury; and

b. administering to said patient a pharmaceutical composition comprising allopregnanolone in a therapeutically effective amount to treat neurodegeneration of a population of cells in said patient, wherein said therapeutically effective amount of allopregnanolone produces a neuroprotective effect in said patient.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein said traumatic CNS injury is a traumatic brain injury.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the neurodegeneration is associated with cerebral edema.

19. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the neurodegeneration is associated with a blunt force contusion.

20. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the neurodegeneration is associated with an inflammatory response.